Welcome to the fifth COFAtopia for 2012. Themed ACTION we take a look at some extraordinary students doing some extraordinary things. It may be the depths of winter but that doesn’t stop the busy activity of COFA students James McDonald, Jack Condon and Rebecca Karageorgos, the all new art theory collective YOLK or the COFA SRC. Take a read about all the innovative steps these super cool COFA kids are taking to place agency in their own hands! Next issue: CLOSER TOGETHER featuring UNSW Artsweek plus some hot tips for the Biennale of Sydney from a COFA student perspective. See you then...
What is 'Half a Desk' about?

Half a Desk refers to the amount of studio space currently allocated to Undergrad students at COFA: 40cm by 75cm.

The show is a response to the lack of acceptable studio facilities and resources made available to students during the COFA Redevelopment Project. The exhibition will critique the failure of the COFA administration to meet the basic needs of students and celebrate the ability of COFA students to create brilliant and engaging works in spite of these adverse conditions.

Who can be involved?

All COFA students are encouraged to submit works for the exhibition. If you are Undergrad, Post Grad, Art Theory, Art Education, Design, Digital Media, Fine Arts, we want your works! Don’t be shy.

CRITERIA:

Works submitted MUST fit within the dimensions of half a standard desk size: 40cm x 75cm. Height is flexible.

We will accept 2D works, sculptures, performances, time-based works and installations. Experimental works, works in progress and works that use space creatively are encouraged.

Why should people get involved?

‘Half a Desk’ is a great opportunity for students to not only show finished works but also experimental works and works in progress. We’re hoping for submissions that respond creatively to the size restrictions and exhibition themes. This is a great chance for COFA students to critically consider their experiences of studying within a construction site. We expect submitted works will express the unique challenges of studying at a campus plagued by limited resources, facilities and the absence of a student community at COFA.

To apply, email your name, phone number, 3 photos of your work and a brief proposal outlining what you intend to exhibit to: halfadesk@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions is 5pm, Mon 30th July

Submissions due 5pm, Mon 30th July

Email your name, phone number and three images and a short description of your work or proposed work to halfadesk@gmail.com

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The COFA SRC wants your works for an exciting new show at Kudos Gallery.

‘Half a Desk’ is a response to the lack of studio facilities and resources provided to students during the COFA Redevelopment Project.

All COFA students are invited to apply. All mediums accepted. Experimental works, works in progress and works that use space creatively are encouraged.

Works must fit within the dimensions of a half a standard desk size:

40cm x 75cm

No height restrictions
Flotsam & Flux is an action packed photomedia exhibition by recent (2011) COFA graduates Jack Condon and Rebecca Karageorgos that opened to a full house at Kudos Gallery in O Week Semester 2. The exhibition is open till Sat 21 July, don’t miss it!

Kudos Gallery is open Wed to Fri 11am - 6pm and Sat 11am - 4pm.

This is a very schlick and slightly sexy show of portraits in intimate spaces, that evoke a sense of timelessness, yet feel so very now. The works are art-house cinematic and the lighting is dramatic, emphasised by the use of film flood lights (we hear they’re straight off the set from Mad-Max) to illuminate the works in the gallery. The install inspires a journey through uni-student living; TVs on the floor, messy rooms, games of boredom and distraction, it takes us down a confined, creepy and confronting hallway, and then across to a series of softly sexualised masculine figures.

Both artists’ works are heavily stylised, domesticated hyper-reality with a darkness and depth that many photographers strive for.

It’s common for friends to propose a two-person show, but it’s been a long time since we’ve seen two friends exhibit together like this and not only does it makes sense, but it looks so good.

Rebecca Karageorgos’ work “toys with the notion of interiority, portraying the sublime facades of domestic life and the body”.

Her work, whilst beautiful, is a little unsettling. She says of her subjects “their tranquility is haunting as they are surrounded by an unnatural form of the domestic. Each ones eyes, glazed over and or distracted as their exterior becomes a stage for their interior to be exposed.”

Jack Condon’s work makes me smile. It has such a raw honesty about it. I admire anyone who can make such an eclectic mess of a room full of expressionless and somewhat disconnected figures look so alive and glamorous. They’re fun, like 5o’clock in the morning fun.

He says he aims to “explore how our unconscious desires manifest themselves inside mundane everyday experience... (and) seeks to heighten the constant tension between desires and resolution, dreams and realisations, potential and compromise”. Jack refers to his work as staging, manipulating and fabricating reality. He “creates new tangible realities and narratives that reflect back on contemporary life where a duality of magic and hopes is contrasted with the limitations of the human condition.”

Jack Condon is showing at Firstdraft Gallery, Surry Hills in September, look out for that!

Kudos Gallery has received an unprecedented number of exhibition proposals this year and the rest of 2012’s program is already full!

We are now accepting submissions for the 2013 program. The next deadline is Friday 10 August. This is also the deadline for the next round of Arc @ COFA Art & Design Grants (ADG) - you can apply for up to $500 for an extracurricular project!! For more information about Kudos Gallery and ADG, or to download application forms, www.arc.unsw.edu.au/cofa

If this exhibition has you inspired to start taking pictures, Arc, in collaboration with the UNSW Photo Club are currently running our annual LensLife competition. Successful entrants will have their work exhibited during Artsweek, 13- 17 August. Entries close Monday 30 July. Entry forms are available online at www.arc.unsw.edu.au or email artsweek@arc.unsw.edu.au.
**WEEK ONE**

**TUE 10 July**
5-7 pm
Exhibition opening at Kudos Gallery: Flotsam and Flux

Jack Condon and Rebecca Karageorgos

Continues to 21 July Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington
open Wed to Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm

6-8 pm
COFA Talks
EG02, E Block COFA.

MON 11 July
9:30 – 11 am
Writing a Successful Resume and Cover Letter
CLB 7, UNSW

11am – 12pm
The Insider: Guide to Your First Few Weeks at University
CLB 4, UNSW

**WED 11 July**
9-5 pm
Arc@COFA Flea Markets
Arc Precinct, UNSW

1pm
Film screening: Full Metal Jacket
by Stanley Kubrick
EG02, COFA

2-3 pm
Yellow Shirt Campus Tour
Main Library Lawn, UNSW

3-4 pm
UNSW OFFICIAL WELCOME
Central Lecture Block, Theatre 7, UNSW

4 – 5 pm
UNSW Library for Postgraduates
Matthews A, UNSW

4 – 5pm
Get That Part Time Job
CLB 8, UNSW

**THU 12 July**
10 – 11am
The Insider: Guide to Your First Few Weeks at University
CLB 4, UNSW

11 – 11:30am
Be a Leader: Discover the UNSW Leadership Program
CLB 4, UNSW

12 – 1pm
Become an ASPIRE Travelling Ambassador
John Goodsell LG19, UNSW

1, 2:30, 3:15 pm
COFA Library Tours
Sign up in E Block foyer., COFA

3 – 4 pm
COFA Student tours of COFA campus. Meet outside EG02, COFA

4 – 6 pm
COFA Faculty Welcome
Lecture Theatre EG02, COFA

6 – 7:30 pm
Arc@COFA Welcome Drinks
COFA Common Room
E Block, COFA

**FRI 13 July**
10 am - 3 pm
COFA Computing Workshops
FI06, F Block, COFA.

10am – 1pm
Under 18’s Arrival Essentials + Campus Tour
CLB 2, UNSW

11am – 12pm
Barg on Budget: Ways to Best Manage your Money
CLB 4, UNSW

2 – 3:30pm
Strategies That Will Improve Your Mood - Presented by Ed Lukaszevski
CLB 4, UNSW

**WEEK TWO**

**MON 16 July**
11am-12pm
SOCCER, Meet in the Arc Office or meet us at Moore Park. To join the group you can also find us on FB: COFA SOCCER 2012

**TUE 17 July**
9 am- 4 pm
WELCOME BACK DAY
Main Walkway, UNSW
Kensington Campus

12:1 pm
COFA@KENSO WELCOME BACK DAY!
COFA@Kenso courtyard, behind the Roundhouse, UNSW

6-8pm
COFA Talks
EG02, E Block COFA.

**THU 19 July**
1-2 pm
YOGA, free for Arc members, 5 bucks otherwise.
E101, Level 1 E Block, COFA.

2-3 pm
Meditation. Meditation will be explored from a mindfulness perspective.
E Block, COFA.

2-3 pm
Sketch Club
Venue TBC
UNSW

5 pm-late
START OF SESSION PARTY
Roundhouse, UNSW

**WED 25 July**
9-5 pm
Arc Flea Markets
Arc Precinct, UNSW

1pm
Film screening: Full Metal Jacket
by Stanley Kubrick EG02, COFA

**MON 23 July**
11am-12pm
SOCCER,
Meet in the Arc Office or meet us at Moore Park. To join the group you can also find us on FB: COFA SOCCER 2012

**TUE 24 July**
5-7 pm
Exhibition opening at Kudos Gallery:
Science Fictional
Andrew Frost
continues to 4 August
Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St. Paddington

6-8 pm
COFA Talks
EG02, E Block COFA.

**THU 26 July**
1-2 pm
YOGA, free for Arc members, 5 bucks otherwise.
E101, Level 1 E Block, COFA.

2-3 pm
Meditation. Meditation will be explored from a mindfulness perspective.
Arc Activities Room Level 1 E Block, COFA.

**WED 18 July**
1pm
Filmscreening: Dr Strangelove, Stanley Kubrick
EG02, COFA

3-4 pm
Stitch n’ Bitch
Bring your needles and your gossip
Common Rm

4-5 pm
Nintendo 64/weekly comps, prizes galore and glory!
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block, COFA.

4-7pm
MID WEEK SOCIAL
Booze, food and games
all in the name of fun
COFA Common Room, Level 1 E Block, COFA.
James McDonald is a 3rd year SPI major at COFA. In Semester 1 he was the Kudos Gallery Intern, a sought after position in the intern world as not only is it PAID (!) but it opens up a whole lot of doors to new skills and contacts. I recently got the down low from James about interning, and the innovative exhibition he curated at Kudos, ‘Acting Auditory’.

What were some of the benefits from doing an internship at Kudos?

Definitely the contacts made benefited me and will continue to do so in future, even if it was just getting to know COFA students. But equally as important was the insight into art admin and the skills needed to be successful in the industry. I’ve definitely improved my communication skills over a range of areas. I now think I can write a pretty good email!

Over the duration of the 6-month internship any highlights? Lowights?

Highlights were being continually exposed to a range of exhibition styles and mediums, meeting heaps of artists and the supportive team at Arc at COFA has been exhilarating and engaging.

Lowights. I guess pulling the rubbish laden wheelie bin from Kudos to the COFA loading dock every week wasn’t the time of my life.

The show you curated, ‘Acting Auditory’ brought together 18 COFA students to explore the links between performance and audio. What are the connections?

Audio and performance both exist outside of the realm of ‘pure’ art, often relegated to the field of acting and music. Through this exhibition I wanted to reveal the direct relationship of performance and sound outside of this popular definition. I also wanted to question whether they could be separated successfully to stand alone, and highlight the contextualising nature of sound to performance. I also wanted to present the effect of recorded or synthesized sound that is reproduced in the absence of a performer.

What sort of works did you have as part of the exhibition?

The majority of the work was video or documentation of performance, which we had on multiple TV’s and large projections. There were also sculptural installations incorporating sound and one purely sound installation. On opening night we had ‘Half Time’, a live performance involving orange quarters and yellow cards by Beth Dillon, Jess Stewart and Nick Fox donning their recent ‘Carrotonian’ personas.

What’s next post Kudos Internship?

Post lazy Uni holidays, in Semester 2 my focus will be to finish COFA subjects and get ready for the Annual Exhibition. Next year I’ve applied to go on exchange to Lyon, France so I am eagerly anticipating that!

This semester’s Kudos Intern is ArtEd student Claudia Nicholson. The next call out for Arc Interns will be in October so stay tuned!
YOLK Collective are Olivia Welch, Oliver Godsell and Tahjee Moar, the hottest new group on the scene. YOLK’s three COFA Art Theory students are making some interesting stuff happen with an exhibition and publication ready to launch in July, these 3rd years are ones to watch. Kelly Doley got the low down...

Why did you guys get together?

YOLK Collective was formed in late 2011. We wanted to create opportunities and editorial for emerging artists, inside and outside of COFA. We also wanted to create a platform where we could share our thoughts and use the knowledge gained in our degree by creating quirky and interesting written material on art and design related topics. Tell me about the upcoming exhibition and publication...

‘OF LIGHT’ is our debut exhibition centred on themes of light, luminosity and electricity. It will be open from the 13-15 July at The Barn, Mosman and will showcase works from a range of talented emerging artists. We are also developing our first biennial magazine, which will be launched on the opening night of ‘OF LIGHT’. Is there a need for more critical dialogue in the Sydney art scene?

Definitely! As the art pages in our newspapers diminish and people, still scarred by the economic crisis, are investing less in the art world, critical dialogue in the art scene in Sydney has suffered. To add to this, cross-pollination within the arts and between art & music, art & science etc. is something we feel the arts in Sydney is lacking and needs more of in order to create dialogue, whether critical or experimental. This is something YOLK Collective aims to foster.

If you could curate a show with any artists in the whole world, no matter dead or alive, super famous or emerging - who would you choose?

Within our studies at COFA we found that we have a shared interest in cultural difference and cross-cultural diversity in visual art, which is very topical in this post-colonial, globalised world. So the opportunity to curate an exhibition centred on those themes with artists such as Yinka Shonibare, Kara Walker and Jason Wing would be beyond amazing for us!

Any hot picks for the Sydney Biennale?

Postcommodity, Jonathan Jones, Philip Beesley, Pinaree Sanpitak & Tiffany Singh - they’re all so exciting!

Thanks guys for your insightful answers and looking forward to what comes next from YOLK.

Meet & Greet: YOLK COLLECTIVE

Kirst Ohh, ‘Vivid’ 2012, Digital work, Heatpress poster

‘OF LIGHT’ opens 6.30-9.30pm, Fri 13 July and continues to 15 July, at The Barn, Mosman.

For more info about the exhibition and all things YOLK Collective go to yolkcollective.blogspot.com.au
COFA kids @Kenso Survival Guide

Lower Campus – the area that you can get to without going up stairs; the first 891 stop on High St.

One can easily spend an entire degree on the bottom half of campus, especially if going to the library doesn’t really merit the physical exertion required to get to it. However, lower campus can look like a giant walkway plus a weird looking lime-green building if you don’t know the secrets lying off the beaten (and by beaten I mean paved in sandstone) track.

First off there’s the COFA Courtyard (behind the Roundhouse) which features benches, an awesome tree and very easy access to the best and cheapest food on campus. Tropical Green – hidden away in the back corner of the Roundhouse – makes the best phở, steamed buns and Vietnamese salad rolls EVER! A chicken roll and a weird looking lime-green building if you don’t know the secrets lying off the beaten path and by beaten I mean paved in sandstone track.

Moving on from the Courtyard and back into the Roundhouse we have the SD (Student Development) office, kind of like the Common Room without the common room bit. You can find helpful Arc people here, including the COFA@Kenso officer. It’s one of Kenso’s best kept secrets. There are an amazing collection of tea, grains, tinned goods, weird ingredients and if you sign up with the coop and do some volunteering you get a sweet discount. They also do great value veggie boxes every Thursday. Find them and their product list online (thoughtfulfoods.org.au).

Apparently the Scientia Lawn (at the top of the Scientia steps) has been engineered to provide the perfect angle for napping. This is a vital piece of information. Another vital piece of information is that once you find an empty desk in the library HANG ON TO IT. Do not leave. Whatever occurs. You have found a rare beast. Don’t let it go. Those that are still in Meteor are a rare beast. Don’t let it go. Those that are still in Meteor are a rare beast. Don’t let it go.

Across the Main Walkway we come to the new giant solar panel of a building. The coffee is a bit expensive BUT the terrace is AMAZE. Diagonally across from this you will see UNSW’s vendetta against right angles, the Law Building. Some avoid this place like the plague but it’s the easiest place to find (a) a place to study – just ignore the evil books you get from actual law students when they see your process diary and (b) the most easily accessible loo on the long walk down to Anzac Pd.

EXTRA STUFFFSSSS

Life on Kensington campus is as interesting as you make it. There are lots of things to get involved with. Artsweek, that happens in Week 5 in Semester 2, and is practically made for COFA kids. Look out for opportunities to show your work, perform and basically get your art on. If you want to make some Sweet cashola Arc runs flea markets in the Roundhouse precinct on the first Wednesday of every month. For the more altruistic amongst you there is always the Volunteer Army which helps connect students with volunteering opportunities in their community.

Off-campus…

If you order online at Siam Fusion (a Thai restaurant) on Anzac Pd the meal will be ready by the time you walk there! What’s not to love about that? Also, if you’re at the Design studios the walk to ‘The Spot’ is only ten minutes. Then, of course, there’s the Regent Hotel, known affectionately as the Reg. If you want to kick on into the evening by heading away from the city, then this fine establishment is for you!

Some Handy contacts

Artsweek Coordinator: Zayneo.artsweek@arc.unsw.edu.au
Flea Market Coordinator: Scarlett.s.ha@arc.unsw.edu.au
Volunteer Army Coordinator: Scarlett.s.ha@arc.unsw.edu.au
Volunteer Army Coordinator: Scarlett.s.ha@arc.unsw.edu.au
Volunteer Army Coordinator: Scarlett.s.ha@arc.unsw.edu.au
Volunteer Army Coordinator: Scarlett.s.ha@arc.unsw.edu.au
COFA@Kenso Officer: Wilna.w.fourie@arc.unsw.edu.au

EAT AND DRINK

The Roundhouse precinct on High St.

Some students love the Roundhouse. The Roundhouse is a bit expensive BUT the terrace is AMAZE. Diagonally across from this you will see UNSW’s vendetta against right angles, the Law Building. Some avoid this place like the plague but it’s the easiest place to find (a) a place to study – just ignore the evil books you get from actual law students when they see your process diary and (b) the most easily accessible loo on the long walk down to Anzac Pd.

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If you’re after something slightly more organic and home-grown, visit the Thoughtful Foods Cooperative, also handily located metres from the COFA Courtyard. This is one of Kenso’s best kept secrets. They have an amazing collection of tea, grains, tinned goods, weird ingredients and if you sign up with the coop and do some volunteering you get a sweet discount. They also do great value veggie boxes every Thursday. Find them and their product list online (thoughtfulfoods.org.au).

Moving on from the Courtyard and back into the Roundhouse we have the SD (Student Development) office, kind of like the Common Room without the common room bit. You can find helpful Arc people here, including the COFA@Kenso officer. You can also find information about clubs and societies and volunteer programs. The common room part of the SD department is actually across in the Blockhouse. If you go to Arc reception you will find the student welfare and women’s rooms which have microwaves and kettles and various other things for students and women to make use of. In the Blockhouse you can also find offices that house various Kensington SRC representatives that you can go and annoy. They get paid for it so pester away.

Across the Main Walkway we come to the new giant solar panel of a building. The coffee is a bit expensive but the terrace is AMAZE. Diagonally across from this you will see UNSW’s vendetta against right angles, the Law Building. Some avoid this place like the plague but it’s the easiest place to find (a) a place to study – just ignore the evil books you get from actual law students when they see your process diary and (b) the most easily accessible loo on the long walk down to Anzac Pd.

If you wish to drown your sorrows, whatever they may be, there are two happy hours to choose from. The Roundhouse happy hour is 5-6pm and Whitehouse happy hour runs from 4-5pm. The Whitehouse is a relatively new venue on campus (find it through the northern archway of the Quad. It has cheap yummy food, cocktails that come in jars (it’s almost like being in Surry Hills... almost) and cheery staff who put on fun things like Art Attacks and Live at the Whitehouse, a radio program that is ‘broadcast’ exclusively from the Whitehouse to the people in the Whitehouse.

Upper Campus – aptly named as it is indeed at the top of a lot of stairs; the second 891 stop on High St.

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On 5 June at FBI Social in Kings Cross the three art schools from Sydney made history by coming together under one roof to party!

Lots of fun was had by all students from SCA, COFA and NAS as they jammed to Swimwear, Rainbow Chan and the heroes of psychedelic Holy Balm. DJ’s from all schools spun their digital wax that set the scene for some hot dance floor moves. Free drinks were had by all, an arrest and some naughty graffiti were reported and we are yet to hear of the tales of inter-campus romance... anyone?

photos by Vanessa Low
Dear student,

Feeling disadvantaged by the COFA Redevelopment Project? Peeved at paying top dollar for a campus with limited studio facilities, resources and amenities? Got concerns, gripes and grumbles about the quality of your university education experience?

The COFA SRC wants to hear your constructive criticisms as part of our Dear Dean Campaign. Over the past few months your student representatives have been gathering letters of the email and hard copy variety expressing the collective and individual concerns of COFA students. Want to have your say on the matter? Then write a letter detailing the problem and how you'd like the issue to be resolved, then either place it in the drop box in the Common Room or email us at deardean2012@gmail.com.

The SRC will be presenting your letters to the Dean mid-Semester 2. It is hoped that through constructive dialogue between students and the Dean, we will be able to secure better conditions for students studying at COFA both at present and once the construction period has ended.

Want to express your concerns through ART? Then get involved in the COFA SRC’s Half a Desk exhibition at Kudos Gallery, ArtsWeek, 13-17 August. We’re looking for works that fit within the physical dimensions of half a standard desk size provided to Undergraduate students at COFA (40cm x 75cm). The show’s theme is both critique of COFA’s cramped studio facilities and a celebration of how talented COFA students are, despite the dismal conditions on campus. Works in progress, experimental works and works that explore the size restrictions creatively are definitely encouraged. To apply or inquire, email 3 photos and a short description of your work or proposed work to halfadesk@gmail.com by 5pm, Mon 30 July.

Cheers,
Beth Dillon
COFA SRC Representative

This year COFAtopia is giving over it’s naughty back page to the COFA Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC @COFA are a bunch of students who represent YOU! They are there to campaign for your needs to the larger university body as well as make sure your student voice is heard when it comes to national affairs.

In this issue we hear from SRC @ COFA President Beth Dillon. If you want to get involved in the conversation, friend them on FB at COFA Src.

FLOTSAM & FLUX
Jack Condon and Rebecca Karageorgos

Somewhere between light and dark is the truth of who and what we are. There is no sense in showing darkness without beauty or gorging ourselves on the beastly without the pan that is part of everyday reality. We’re caught in a sphere of great familiarity and at the same time, a great distance. A sphere where the past and present have been removed and all that remains is a cutout pretending to be something more than the stillness of the moment.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 10 July
Closes Saturday 21 July 2012

SCIENCE FICTIONAL
Andrew Frost

Science Fictional is an expanded short story incorporating telemetry from a 3.5 year deep-culture research mission. Six screens of image and four channels of sound were sorted and edited according to strict apophenic principals, eschewing strict temporal alignment while maximizing emotional and cognitive response, here presented for your viewing pleasure.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 24 July
Closes Saturday 4 August 2012

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF PRINTS!
Rebecca Geddes, Helen Daley, Angela Butler, Anna Russell, Helen Wardle, Jess Bradford, Jessica Hodkinson, Max Gosling, David Quoy, Kate Landau, Verity Wells and more!

A celebration of the diversity of printmaking from The Prints Charming Collective: a printmaking studio and education space in Newtown facilitating experimentation and collaboration.

Opens 5-7pm Tuesday 7 August
Closes Saturday 11 August 2012

Kudos Gallery
6 Napier St Paddington NSW 2021
11am-6pm Wed to Fri, 11am-4pm Sat
T 02 9326 0034
E kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au
W arc.unsw.edu.au/kudos

Kudos Gallery is run by COFA students and funded by Arc @ UNSW Limited
2012 Artsweek
SOUNDS PROJECT

Submit songs & sounds by Mon Jul 16

WANT TO FEATURE ON THE SOUNDS PROJECT CD?

Your chance to get your music out to the world from a professional platform.

arc.unsw.edu.au/artsweek  Facebook UNSWartsweek